

Remarks

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The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9-11, 14, 18, 19, and 35-37, objected to claims 5-8, and allowed claim 20-29 and 31-34. Claims 12-13, 15-17, and 30 were drawn to provisionally non-elected species. Claims 2, 5, and 35-37 have been canceled. Claim 30 was withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, and 16 have been amended. Some of the independent claims are generic to non-elected species and, upon their allowance, allowance of claims 12-13, 15-17, and 30 is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-34 remain in the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 9-11, 14, 18, 19, 35, and 36 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Costanzo (US 6,494,312) and claims 4 and 37 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Costanzo in view of Aquino et al. (US 4,733,768). The Examiner objected to claims 5-8.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of objected-to claim 5 and all the limitations of intervening claim 2. Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled. The dependencies of claims 3, 4, 6, and 8 have been adjusted to comport with the amendment of claim 1 and the cancellation of claims 2 and 5. Claim 1 and its dependents, including claims 16 and 17 previously withdrawn by the Examiner, should be allowable. Claim 16 has been amended to comport with newly amended claim 1. Claims 12, 13, and 15 have been amended to depend from previously allowed claim 33. The amendments to claims 13 and 15 include changes made to correct antecedent basis, as well as the changes in claim reference. Claims 35-37 have been canceled.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the withdrawal of, rejection of, or objection to claims 1, 3, 4, 6-19, and 30.

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This amendment is being sent within three months of the Final Office Action so no extension of time petition fee should be due. Authorization to charge any fees deemed necessary for consideration of this response to Deposit Account No. 12-0090 is hereby given. If the Examiner thinks a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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